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• Volume 98/ Issue 10 Jan. 21, 2008 •

• Brandon University's Student Newspaper •

A Jagged Little Pill

*Exactly How Safe
Are We at BU?*

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CIS Shakeup Will we lose out to USA?



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Our Morbid Fetish



Has TV gone too far?
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Casino Rucus

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Raise Your Glasses: GST lowered to 5%

Mitch Rosset
ACC Correspondent

It's been more than two weeks – how do those few extra pennies feel in your pocket?

As glasses were raised to herald the beginning of the new year, the GST was lowered by yet another percentage point, bringing it down to five percent.

"It's great," said Stephanie Hayward, Student Life Coordinator for Assiniboine Community College's Student Association. "My paycheck is bigger now because of it!"

Walk into any retail outlet, and you'll still see the odd sly smile on the faces of consumers who think the cashier may have miscalculated their bill. Many folks remained unaware of, or at least had forgotten about, the belated holiday present the government had promised to bestow on Canadian consumers.

"I actually didn't know about it until I went shopping for the first time in the New Year," said Jason Labossiere, a Heavy Duty Mechanics student at ACC. "I was too busy with the holidays



to actually notice when they announced it."

Maybe it was the lack of knowledge, or the fact that Prime Minister Stephen Harper brought the new cut on by surprise – he did credit the new tax cut to a strong, growing economy – but it seems people weren't as excited as they were on July 1st, 2006, when the federal government dropped the GST to 6%. Back then consumers were jokingly saying they were going to cash in on the "winfall" by buying new cars, building houses or picking up the newest advancements in electronics.

This time around, the drop in the GST essentially got the cold shoulder – even though as citizens, we'll collectively be saving upward of \$12 billion dollars. So what exactly does that mean to an average person?

"Basically, every consumer will be saving a few hundred dollars at the till per year, plus an extra \$75 on their income tax return with the recent tax cut," says Sean Blair, Operations Manager at Liberty Tax Service. "Really, the government found out that everyone was technically overtaxed during the 2007 tax season."

Of course, that \$75 cheque is not a guarantee. In order to receive an income tax return, you need to have had an income during the past tax season. Which is perfect for students, since most of them have either part-time jobs during the school year, or have worked for a few months during the summer holidays. In many instances, students will be reimbursed for all the income

tax they paid, plus receive some additional funds for tuition and text books. There are also some other hidden gems that many post-secondary students don't know about, which will help them once the Tax Man comes around.

"Most students don't know that they are entitled to claim living expenses and moving expenses if you had to relocate to attend school or practicum," said Blair. "It's a pretty big book on rules and exemptions, but if someone needs help they can come in and we'll walk them through it."

The provincial government also recently brought forward an exemption that will help any student entering the workforce.

"Any student that graduated in 2006 onward will receive a significant tax credit from the government if they stay and work in Manitoba," Blair said. "With the recent work boom in Alberta, the provincial government saw that they were losing potential employees and had to do something."

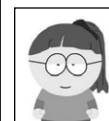
From cuts in the GST rate to an even bigger income tax return, every dollar helps a student. But the only way to qualify for that nice February cheque is to get ready. Because with all due respect to the Beatles, if you drive a car, he'll tax the street. If you try to sit, he'll tax your seat. If you get too cold, he'll tax the heat. If you take a walk, he'll tax your feet. 'Cause he's the taxman.

The Quill

Bug Free... Since, well,
last week!



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NEWS in BRIEF

Drumplates – the brainchild of Jan Koster, a professional drummer of 20 years – are designed to ensure precise and consistent set up of drum kits time and time again. Utilising a unique combination of industrial quality Velcro, hardened moulded plastic blocks and flat plastic plates, Drumplates also prevent drums from sliding. They are being exclusively stocked by London Drum Company. / mipro.co.uk

Steve Jobs, Apple co-founder/Chairman/CEO, revealed the worlds thinnest laptop, MacBook Air. At 1.93cm at it's thickest, it does not have a CD or DVD drive and weighs 1.3kg. It will come in 5 colours: Tangerine, Blueberry, Key Lime, Indigo and Graphite. / BBC News

A new strain of MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) has been discovered. USA300 strains were found in San Francisco and Boston. The male homosexual community has been hardest hit by this strain of the bacteria, which can lead to large boils on the skin and, potentially, fatal blood poisoning or necrotising pneumonia. /BBC News

Boeing is having difficulties in the assembly of the new 787 Dreamliner. First deliveries are delayed and it appears as if Boeing will not be meeting its target of 109 jets by the end of 2009. Boeing's stock is around \$77/share at press time. This is down from a high of around \$107 in October. /ft.com

Security Measures at BU Just “a placebo,” According to Visentin

Jake Hammell
ACC Correspondent

Security.

It's important to all of us, and you'd be hard pressed to find a place where it should matter more to people than in a public facility like a university or college.

In October, four separate bomb threats were made on the campus of Brandon University. No bombs were found, and each incident, which involved notes left in washrooms around the campus, proved to be nothing more than an idle threat. But each time major disruption was caused, and students had to be evacuated from some buildings.

While some feel the likelihood of campus bombings and shootings taking place in Brandon is low, one only has to recall the killings at Dawson College and Virginia Tech to realize these situations can happen anywhere. So the question is this: Are Brandon University and Assiniboine Community College doing enough to ensure their students' safety?

During the summer of 2007, BU installed an easy-to-use alert system. The technology, called BU Now, was suggested to university officials by the Students' Union. It consists of a series of television screens placed throughout the campus that are all linked together. Should the need arise, the monitors can display messages of general concern to university students and staff. According to Scott Lamont, BU's Vice President of Administration and Finance, the system would be used in an emergency to broadcast, both visually and audibly, warning messages.

In a telephone interview, BU

President Dr. Louis Visentin said he's skeptical of the actual need for such strong security measures in a small city like Brandon.

“Look at these things from an historical point of view,” Visentin said. “We do not have a population that's violent; this is not Detroit, this is not Los Angeles.

“We're a very gentle people. At the same time we have to be vigilant. We're trying to tread that line – understanding what our history is, understanding

“It's a placebo. We don't have real threats here- like you have real threats in Jerusalem where they have a history of bombs.”

what our people are – at the same time assuring them that we are secure, and that they are secure. For example, we can't be responding to every note that's written in every washroom in the city. That would be insane.”

Visentin also stated that the defence measures around BU are little more than a security blanket to ease the minds of students and staff.

“It's a placebo,” Visentin said.

“We don't have real threats here- like you have real threats in Jerusalem where they have a history of bombs. So it's a different sort of a mental set. But at the same time, we do have travellers – we do have people who could come into the area. There's always the potential – what's the probability? You have to measure your response against the probability of something happening.

“What has ever happened in places like Brandon, or ACC? Have you ever had a bomb there?”

Future possibilities for security at BU include a ‘panic button’ system, which would work similarly to a fire alarm. In an emergency, someone in danger or who spotted something suspicious would trigger the alarm, which would in turn send a signal letting security teams know exactly where the alarm originated from. But these systems are expensive to install and maintain, leaving taxpayers and students to foot the bill for systems that administrators don't necessarily put much faith in.

Across town at Assiniboine Community College, things aren't much different. To respond to the possibility of an attack, ACC has developed a comprehensive emergency

measures plan, which is outlined in a pamphlet located in all classrooms. In addition to this, ACC has its own on-site security team staffed and managed by the province, unlike BU, which hands control of its security teams over to a third-party service, OBO Security. Dan Collens, Director of Campus Services at ACC, is confident in the college's emergency protocols and its ability to provide security for its students and staff, but admits no plan is foolproof.

“Well, I think generally (ACC is) a secure place to be,” Collens said. “If a shooter wants to shoot somebody, they'll wait outside until everyone goes home and then they'll take that opportunity. So there's no such thing as a totally safe place.”

Both Lamont and Collens said neither campus has on-site security teams that are actually trained to handle dangerous individuals. In the event such a person should enter the campus, security's role at both BU and ACC is merely to call city police and direct them to the scene.

It's said that hindsight is 20-20. So how effective will the safety measures at Brandon's two post-secondary institutions prove to be?

Only time will tell.

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Half-Baked (An Editorial)

Kelsey Pohl
News Editor

“ ‘Dave Chomiak, Attorney General of Manitoba and minister responsible for the Manitoba Gaming Commission announced that the province will work with the City of Brandon and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

Our government is committed to building on our partnership with the AMC to improve economic opportunities for First Nation peoples and bolster tourism growth in the Brandon area,’ Chomiak said.”

Which is great. There is nothing people like more that economic opportunities and bolstering tourism growth. I’m not even being sarcastic here. There is a bit of a problem though, with this plan.

“The Chiefs of the Dakota Nations are unhappy with this announcement as the land on which the casino would be built is ancestral Dakota land currently part of a land claim negotiation with the federal government.”

That is one heck of a problem. I’ll be the first to admit I know nothing about treaties and land claims. I wasn’t taught in

school, have no idea where to start educating myself and have no spare slots to take courses in Uni. But I’m pretty sure that the AMC have an idea about land claims. And from an outside stand-point, it seems a bit sticky proposing, building something on disputed ground.

At one point, there was discussion of a race track. This



would be outside of city limits. Why couldn’t a combination race track/casino be proposed? That seems like more of a destination. Maybe with a big spa/hotel. You know, a place to go. Not just a casino with 300 VLTs and some tables. The AMC and/or the Dakota Nations could still be partners in a venture like that.

Even built outside city limits, Brandon would benefit from a destination casino. In an

informal, highly unscientific, potentially biased poll of some people around the school, 35 of the 54 people asked do not want a casino in Brandon. Some even mentioned that a casino in the area would be a good idea but they don’t want one in downtown Brandon. With the scale of casino that is being discussed, it is hard to picture a huge revitalization of “Downtown Brandon.” The development of the YMCA on the southeast corner of 8th and Princess and the building of a skate park on the southwest corner of 9th and Princess seem more in line with what many citizens in Brandon are looking for, in terms of development. Family friendly and aesthetically pleasing. Building a destination museum downtown in the former rail station would only add to this. Look to issue 11 of The Quill for more discussion on this matter.

In a plebiscite planned for March of this year, citizens of Brandon will be asked whether or not they would support the building of a casino in Brandon. I know I will be doing more research into this but I have a feeling I already know what my answer is going to be...

View from the Right

---Dave Barnesky

Ezra Levant, publisher of the now defunct Western Standard magazine, is under attack for publishing the Danish Muhammad cartoons in that same defunct magazine. Levant was alone in Canadian journalism, having the courage to show his readers the offending material which caused riots around the world. On Friday he met with the Alberta “Human Rights” Commission (a kangaroo court like all “Human Rights” Commissions in this country), to discuss the complaints they had against him. Apparently he “offended” some people by publishing the Muhammad cartoons.

Big deal. When did it become a violation of human rights to be offended? Honestly, I’m offended by a lot of things that a lot of people say, so what? Offense is no reason to trample free expression. I write controversial and unpopular things. This is a good thing, as at the very least it makes people angry, and under the best conditions it gets people talking about the issues, why I’m so wrong, and introduces a new way of looking at things on campus. It is a service to the free society, whose core principle is the free discussion and honest examination of ideas by free individuals.

The “Human Rights” Commissions’ in this country prevent free discussion of controversial ideas, and prevent honest examination of ideas by individuals. Ezra Levant believed that his readership could be trusted to see the “offensive” cartoons and make up their own minds about them. The Alberta Human Rights Commission disagreed, and by introducing retributive punishments for words that they might not necessarily want to hear, they are doing a disservice to democracy, and trampling the natural right to intellectual freedom that all people inherently possess.

In fact, the “Human

Rights” Commissions’ don’t even honor the most basic of legal rights in this country. Plaintiffs can testify in secret, disallowing the accused to face his accuser. The accused is tried by a panel of bureaucrats, not his peers. Most “Human Rights” Commissions’ admit hearsay as evidence and limit the accused from calling his own witnesses. They are perverse sham courts, denying the basic fundamental legal rights to the accused in order to trample his basic fundamental natural rights.

Ezra Levant showed great courage once again, and said that publishing the Danish cartoons was “the proudest moment of my public life. I would do it again today.” In the arena of free and honest discussion, those ideas, which are valid or valuable, will stand up, and those that are invalid will not. Thomas Jefferson wrote, “All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.”

Villains who would trample our rights like to clothe themselves in good deeds. They will always be with us, trying to deny someones speech in the name of righteousness, national defense, or in this case, cultural sensitivity. If we don’t stand up and say no, he has a right to say it, even if its vile, disgusting or offensive, then, as Reagan put it, “history will record with the greatest astonishment that those who had the most to lose did the least to prevent its happening.” The “Human Rights” Commissions’ in this country must be shut down. If we are to be free people, we must accept views that might offend us, and respond by lighting our figurative pulpit aflame with eloquence, defeating those views in free discussion. The price of liberty is eternal vigilance. Sic semper tyrannis!



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Sex Ed In The City

--Kerry Law

Is it bad for a woman to have sex in water? I heard it pushes water into the vagina and can cause problems. Is this true? Are condoms still effective when used in water?

Having sexual intercourse in the water is not dangerous. However, it may not be very comfortable because water can wash away the lubrication in the vagina, causing painful friction. If you are having sex in a bubble bath- you need to be careful because the bubble bath product can possibly cause irritation inside and/or around the vagina. This can then lead to a yeast infection or urinary tract infection(UTI). For some women, yeast infections and UTI are caused simply by bathing and using bubble bath products.

If you choose to have sex in the water you still need to

be cautious about STIs and pregnancy. Even if you choose to use a condom you need to be careful because condoms can possibly break from decreased lubrication and even deteriorate from heat, chlorine, or oil-based substances in the water. It also may be difficult to put a condom on in the water and even if you do get it on, there is a possibility of water getting into it. This can cause the condom to fall off or break without the person knowing it.

Also, remember that pregnancy can happen any time ejaculate or pre-ejaculate is spilled in the vagina or on or near the vulva - whether it occurs on "dry land" or in the water. So, ignore the myths about hot water and chlorine being able to kill sperm. You need to still be practicing safer sex in the water.

Despite this, lots of couples

still find it enjoyable to fool in around hot tubs, swimming pools and lakes etc. Just remember; be safe and don't get caught.

Check out our web site at www.serc.mb.ca

Are you gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning and under 25 years old? If so, call 727-0417 and join the Rainbow Youth Alliance! Information provided by the Sexuality Education Resource Centre. Do you have questions about sexuality? Send them to kerril@serc.mb.ca.

The information contained in this article is not intended as medical advice. Should you have any questions, please consult your health care provider.

Edge of Sanity

--Cara Edge

This summer, my sister gave me her baby. I was beyond ecstatic - what a symbol of adulthood! I recognized the responsibility that came with her, and took great pride in ensuring all her needs were met. We had so much fun this summer - bath time, trips to Winnipeg, quick trips to the mall, etc, etc, etc.

However, after the first few days of winter, the honeymoon period was over. She didn't want to seem to get going in the morning. While I usually would look in on her around 9, I found I had to get up earlier and early to make sure she would be ready to start the day when I did.

One day, as I checked on her around 8:00, I found she had developed a nasty cough and sputter. Knowing that this was just a bad sign, I immediately called to get an appointment to be checked out. After sitting around waiting for 30 minutes passed our appointment time, I sent a quick e-mail off to the prof - it looks like I'd be missing his class. Trying not to curse the existence of my pride and joy, I flipped through dated magazines, attempting to forget that I was missing out on a rather important class. I was just about to regret accepting this bundle of joy from my sister when the tow truck arrived.

Oh, did I not mention that my baby is a 1999 candy apple red Plymouth Breeze?

I'm not stranger to the tribulations of surviving winter with this car, having shared it with my sister through high school, and the years I attended U of M. Bambi (which is her name) and I have been through a lot together - the successful passing of my driver's ed test, the hay bale my sister hit (and assumed was a camel), the two accidents I was in (within two weeks of each other) in my first year of university. However, for the most part, she's always

bounced right back after being hit. She's been a pretty good car.

After 7 years, she's starting to try my patience. If she doesn't need an oil change, her tires need to be replaced. If she doesn't need to be washed, her windshield wipers need replacing. If she doesn't need gas, her insurance needs to be renewed. I realize I really do very little with her (being that I am a princess and have a father who loves to look after me), but it is an endless stream of things to remember. Just as my father

puts his foot down and says he's not putting another dolla toward her, I pop the hood and discover I need a new hose for

the windshield washer fluid.

I tend to get even more frustrated when we get a huge pile of snow dumped on us overnight, and the snowploughs have cleared the street, but blocked my drive-way. The first time this happens every year, I always wonder - what would take less effort? Shovelling my way out, and getting stuck every time I park? Or walking? It doesn't matter which option I choose, I always live to regret it.

Every time there is even a slight hiccup in her system, I feel like selling her for a bus pass. I realize it's an idle threat (with limited bus service being available in my area). I also realize I could just park her and walk, like I did when I first moved here, and felt that borrowing my mother's care brought with it the stigma of shame and dependency. However, as inconvenient as I find the constant need to maintenance my car, why wake up early to walk, when I can sleep in and drive? After all, if I wasn't Taxi-Cara for most of my friends, we'd never get together.



Counsellor's Corner

HAVING ACADEMIC PROBLEMS?

--Bruce Sarbit

Are you . . . failing exams or classes? getting nervous about a sliding GPA? feeling overwhelmed? experiencing severe test anxiety? having trouble studying? studying, but having trouble with tests? thinking about quitting school or changing your major?

- **Reasons University Students Experience Academic Problems:** Motivation: Students need fairly clear purpose to successfully engage in the challenges of higher education. Some students don't have a clear vision, so courses have little or no relationship to the student's true interests.
- **Inadequate Time Management:** Most B.U. students work at part-time jobs and/or are engaged in time-consuming extra-curricular activities. The demands of academic assignments require students to have excellent time management skills. Unfortunately, most

students don't.

- **Learning Skills:** A large proportion of students entering university have not had much in the way of useful instruction or assistance in developing skills for learning.
- **Social Distractions:** Love and friendship, often the most important things in people's lives, sometimes make it difficult to find the necessary balance between socializing and studying.
- **Learning Disabilities:** There are several disorders, some neurological in origin, which are frequently undiagnosed and treated. They can be academically devastating so that capable students find themselves struggling or failing.
- **Substance Abuse:** While not all substance-abusing students flunk out of university, their performance is usually diminished. Drug-and-alcohol-abuse usually covers psychological problems the student may

not be aware of.

- **Psychological Issues:** Many B.U. students are struggling with the demands of university life while also dealing with major emotional issues such as loss, depression, and anxiety. Undiagnosed and untreated, these problems often lead to academic difficulties or failure.

What Can I Do?

Any of the above issues and problems may cause you to feel inadequate or to have serious academic difficulties and failure. Please don't avoid the problems. Don't wait until it is too late. Our professionals in Student Services can provide strategies that will help you deal with your academic problems, reduce your anxiety, and get you back on track. We can also provide counselling to assist you in making good decisions and choices about your future. Call 727-9769 or visit us in Room 115 McKenzie Building to make an appointment.

GOT SOMETHING To SAY...?

Letters to the Editor

Email: eic@thequill.ca

or

drop off @ 2nd flr Knowles Douglas on campus





DIVERSIONS

By Legion of Birds and friends



Pisces. Feb 19 to Mar 20
Chill out with friends or whoever.
Don't let the monkey with the bad
teeth bother you.



Aries. Mar 21 to Apr 19
say hello to people and maybe
take a friend out to eat. Your good
karma will come back to you



Taurus. Apr 20 to May 20
Quit dressing life up like a rabbit in a
tie.



Gemini. May 21 to June 20
Take deep breaths every now and
again and think about your favor-
ite person and things you've done
together



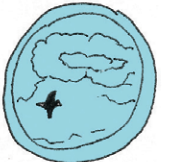
Cancer. June 21 to July 22
Eat Healthy. You'll feel better. And
then eat a bunch of s#*t.



Leo. July 23 to Aug 22
Don't mess with fire, gas,
hottness or those people with
radical views.



Virgo. Aug 23 to Sept 22
Get nude then picture your body
wrapped up in a bison fur



Libra. Sept 23 Oct 22
Duck away from any crazed
egos. They won't do you any
good and come in all forms.



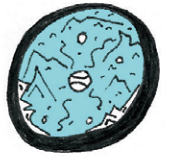
Scorpio. Oct 23 to Nov 22
New Beginings can be a bless-
ing. Might as well ride the pony
while it is in the saddle.



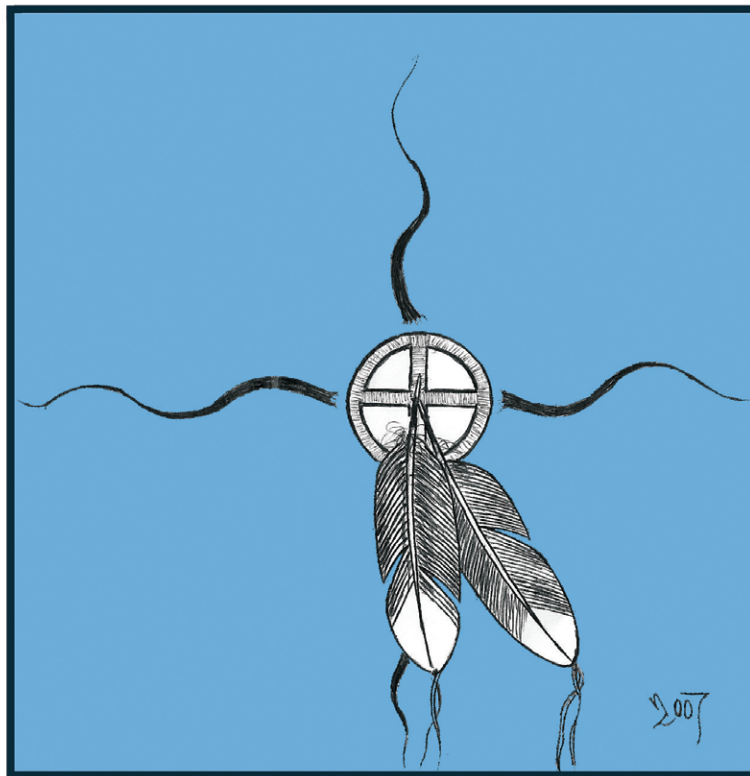
Sagitarious. Nov 22 to Dec 21
If you have any beast friends, like
cats, dogs, horses – look them in
the eye and really think about life.



Capicorn. Dec 22 to Jan 19
It is never too late to realize you're
rad, uncool and beautiful.



Aquarius. Jan 20 to Feb 18
Rainbow Stars to you, somewhat of an
Angel... sometimes...?



Graphic By: Sunny Bunn

Riddles

1. What is Black and White
and red all over?

2. Feed me and I will live,
water me and i will die.
What am I?

3. I have holes in my top
and bottom, left and right,
as well as my middle but
I can still hole water. What
am I?

answers:
1. newspaper or sunburned penguin.
2. fire
3. sponge.

The Half Way Tree

the city needs more trees and birds
and tall plants so the birds can eat



Word of the Week:

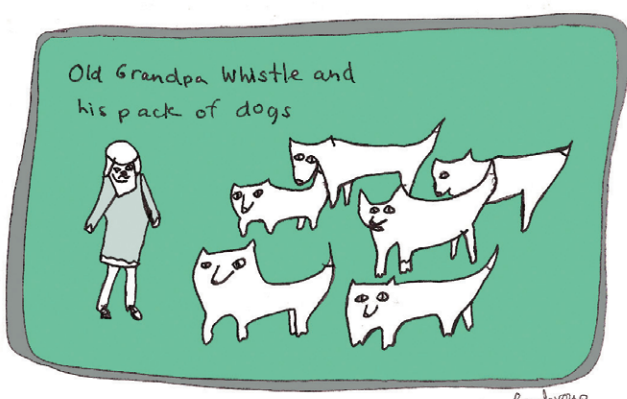
Rhythm

Smokn' dirty bat



How Well Do You Know Your Jackson 6?

From bottom corner clockwise: Tito Jackson, Jackie Jackson, Jermaine Jackson, Marlon Jackson, Micheal Jackson, Randy Jackson.



Get Your Lube, Because Murder Turns Us On

Brianna Hersey
The McGill Daily (McGill University)

MONTREAL (CUP) -- TV premiere season has begun, and the dead bodies are already piling up. The murder victims of primetime are interchangeable with disturbing soft-core centrefolds: sexy dead girls wearing lacy bras and bullet holes. Some have their dainty throats slashed, and others develop purple petekia dots. Corpses never looked so good. Murder tunes us in and turns us on.

The dead bodies we see on television dramas are not real. They are actors playing parts. Many of the killings we see in the news media, however, are real. With peer-to-peer networking web sites, murder has become entertainment: the deaths of Saddam Hussein, Iraqi civilians, suicide bombers, and people in the Chechen Wars have all been available on YouTube and attracted many viewers. As the bodies fell from the World Trade Centre, we watched from our living rooms; we heard them hit the pavement,

and couldn't look away.

Our encounters with deadly explicit television shows are quite recent. The history of real murder taped for pleasure goes back much further. This history is plagued with salacious rumour, false advertising, and titillating promises of real "snuff."

There is significant debate over what constitutes a snuff film. CSI or Law and Order: SVU wouldn't make the cut. News broadcasts of wars are closer but don't quite fit the bill. Generally, the term "snuff" refers to a film produced for commercial gain and distribution that shows the real murder of a human being, often with a sexual payoff. Regardless of definition, we love seeing people be killed. Whether the victims are real, whether the killing is deemed to be "murder" or "defense," whether we download it or watch on the set, our culture is fascinated with watching people die.

When the promise of a real snuff film arises, we are invigorated. According to Wikipedia, there has only been one real snuff film that has



Marg Helgenberger, CBS' CSI

surfaced. However, even this is hard to corroborate. There have been many attempts to create snuff films that appear to be the real deal and they invigorate us all the same, regardless of their authenticity.

The 1976 film Snuff generated protests by second-wave feminists against pornography. The Italian director of 1979's Cannibal Holocaust, Ruggero Deodato, had to prove in

court that the murders in his film were not real. Paul Schrader's Hardcore, Arnold Schwarzenegger's Running Man, Anthony Waller's Mute Witness, and most recently Nimrod Antal's Vacancy have all profited from the theme of murder on tape.

Once in a while, a tale of real-life snuff hits the airwaves. Back in 2004, the story of 23-year-old Canadian Natel King shocked

us. She was a university student who worked in porn to pay for school. She disappeared on Feb. 25, 2004 in Pennsylvania and her body was found a month later still dressed in the bondage gear from the shoot. The note "Snuff Vid" was found on a blank contract in the photographer's camera bag. The photographer was later charged with third-degree murder, admitting that he stabbed her multiple times after he told King he did not have enough money to pay her for modelling.

The Internet was aglow after the King story circulated. Though no snuff film was ever found, bloggers were hot on the trail, hoping to find the violence to fuel their fantasies.

There is supposed to be a difference between seeing real murder and fake murder, but it is hard to find this distinction at times. Whether real rape or fake rape, an actual murder or just for TV fun, we watch news programs and crime shows because they interest us. This interest entertains us. As sordid as it is, murder turns us on.

Hammers, Bad Dates, and the Nature of Reality

Kristen Perrott
Staff

Out and about in Brandon's art scene this week, I had the chance to meet Regina sculptor Marc Cortemanche. Now, besides being one heck of a nice guy, I learned that Marc Cortemanche has a truly mad obsession. In some art circles, he might be referred to as a materialist, but basically, he's a guy who just can't stop making stuff; always has, and probably always will.

Cortemanche started off in the trades, studying heavy mechanics at his local college, but being as perceptive as he is talented, thought it might be better for the long-term health of his back if he got into something else. Clearly, that something else would be carving duck decoys, right? Finding he was winning competitions and tearing up the track in duck decoy world, Marc found himself taking more art classes because they provided yet another place where he could concentrate on his passion: making lots more stuff.

These days, Marc's really into hammers. Oddly enough, I'm not talking about using hammers to do the making; I'm talking about making the hammers. In fact, he's made a life-size woodworking studio full of hammers and sledge-hammers and benches and wheelbarrows. Now here's the clincher: this whole studio full of tools is not made from wood and metals as you might expect, but is meticulously crafted out of clay.



Now, this is the point where Marc gets all artsy and philosophical and starts to talk about the nature of reality. How ironic is it that he has chosen to make objects that are traditionally designed to bash other objects out of one of our planets most fragile materials? Are the hammers that Marc makes, 'real' hammers? They look like 'real' hammers, but I'd hazard a guess they wouldn't get a nail into my wood-paneled walls before shattering. Some might say that they're not 'real' hammers at all; that they're just copies, or representations; 'just art'. So what makes an object 'real' anyway? Is 'realness' based purely on function?

Marc's hammer dilemma reminds me of an evening a number of years ago, when I found myself double-booked as this guy's grad-date (Brutal, yes I know). After surviving the evening with trembling grace and dignity, I got in my car, screamed all the way home, and upon arriving, picked up my roommate's hammer, a handful of large nails and proceeded to

pound them into a lovely, wooden bowl that this guy had made for me. Long story, short, after just a few wallops, the head came flying off the hammer. This was clearly not a very functional hammer. I thought it was a 'real' hammer, but was my roommate's crummy hammer any more 'real' than Marc's ceramic hammers?

I, for one don't really know. Frankly, I'm putting my money on life being an illusion anyway, so you'll just have to take this hammer quandary into your own hands. Incidentally, I didn't miss a beat over my busted hammer. I went inside, picked up another, perhaps more 'real' hammer and kept pounding away until the bowl resembled a crazy, splintered satellite. I then dug a hole in the backyard with a pretty 'real' shovel and buried the damn thing.

Marc Cortemanche's show, The Studio runs in the main gallery of the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, located in The Town Centre in downtown Brandon from January 10th-February 23, 2008.

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REVIEWS

MOVIE

I am a Dud

(aka I Am Legend)

David Kusinick
Staff

*One and Half stars *.5*



Will Smith apprehensive and vexed... convinced??

Will Smith's latest foray into on-screen film action I am Legend falls into a distinct group of post-apocalyptic action movies that lack convincing character development and for that matter, a convincing plot.

I am Legend overtly pushes forth themes which are highly religious in manner. The messiah or savior figure of Will Smith's character is evident from the very un-clever title itself. For the record, a film which dictates itself as being legendary should be taken with a grain of salt, or avoided entirely. Legendary status should dictate a clever story plot with complex characters and unique development, even breathtaking visuals, all of which this film does not have.

The plot, if it can be called such, progresses rather conveniently for Smith's character, Robert Neville. In fact, too conveniently in many instances as supporting characters suddenly emerge, and plot information, such as the virus that wiped out over 90% of the human population (also converting a large remaining percentage of people to nocturnal zombie-like creatures), are far too conveniently matched to the character of Robert Neville.

Mr. Neville or Dr. Neville reads as a character enigma. In one instance he is high ranking military official, but in another he is respected medical doctor who is trying desperately to formulate an antidote to the deadly virus. Sure this relationship of seemingly unrelated occupations can occur in reality, but with a caring wife and young child? Apparently in addition to being legendary Neville's character is also full of free time for his military occupation, medical occupation,

caring wife and young child (not to mention a puppy which develops into the ultimate mans-best-friend cliché).

Where there is a hero there is an antagonist, although in this case the antagonist, in terms of character, is quite unclear. The nocturnal virus-modified humans lack the conviction of blood thirsty zombies found in movies such as 28 Days Later, and special effects do not help their cause. In an age of reliable digital effects the reaction seems to adopt the new digital process over more conventional means of effects. As a result, films lack the conviction in regards to special effects, much like the zombies found in I Am Legend. A much more convincing zombie-like creature could have been created with far less emphasis on the digital realm. Even with these inconsistencies a possible antagonist appears to emerge from within the dark sect and his presence is unbeknownst to Neville's character (Strange, considering his implied intellectual prowess).

The underlying themes of sacrifice and salvation that are reiterated mercilessly throughout the film run concurrent alongside ideas that scientific meddling can lead to catastrophic results. A logical step the film tries to breach is that of religious connotations, but one has to wonder if such a film would translate at all to a non-western audience, or perhaps the overtly symbolic Christian imagery would be glossed over.

Will Smith's new foray into Scientology possibly obscures his judgment regarding scripts, but then again he wasn't a scientologist when he made Wild Wild West (As far as we know).

CD

Destruction (2007)

Brad Denbow
Staff

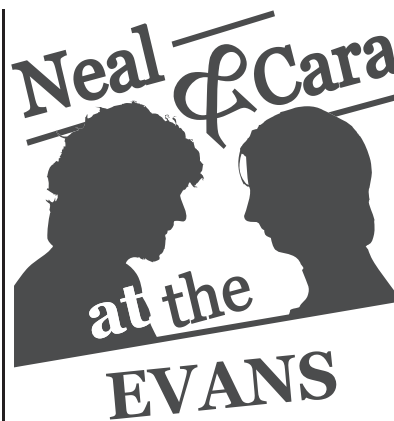
For those of you who know who Destruction are, then you will know that they were (and still are) one of the most influential metal bands to come out of the eighty's. Known for their fast-paced, technical guitar work and the blood curdling screams of Schmier. Destruction retains much of the stereotypical traits of a hair metal band, but have grown into so much more over the years, and defined the thrash metal gener along the way.

Thought to have disbanded when they went on a decade long hiatus, the last few years have seen Destruction gain serious momentum; and, with their latest release have cemented their place near the top of the metal world.

This monumental album is like no other ever made; it is a professional re-recording of their early (i.e. poorly recorded) work, which now sounds the way it should have twenty years ago. The essentials like Mad Butcher, Total Disaster, Invincible Force, Curse the Gods and so much more, all make an appearance on this landmark record.

This is the ultimate collection of a band's best and classic songs on one disk: it is like listening to a live CD and a best of CD all rolled into one beautiful an-thrash-ology perfectly constructed for the diehard fan. This truly is a thrash anthem and a must-have for any fan of music that can't be heard on KX96 over and over again, and is also a great point to enter the genera if you are looking to branch out into new areas.

Well, enough said; go and listen to Destruction - you wont regret it.



Death at a Funeral
2007: Dir- Frank Oz

Neal: There! I found my pen! The pen I do all of my work with!

Cara: How do you distinguish it from all the others that you've stolen from BUSU?

N: Hah, you need to (a) read Plato - they're all aspects of the same "Pen", and (b) watch The Kids in the Hall - the "my pen" thing is one of the funniest sketches ever.

C: Hah! They are right! You are just a pretentious name-dropper.

N: Well, the "funniest" was supposed to be your cue to start talking about the movie we just watched.

C: Sorry, not a mind reader, but we do digress. So this was the second British comedy that we've watched lately, the other being Scenes of a Sexual Nature (it was good: believe it or not, we do actually watch non-review related films - this column is not a cruel joke on us by the staff of The Quill where we are forced to spend time with one another). I've developed quite a taste for this type of humor that feels more sophisticated than recent Hollywood American comedies, even if they rely upon the same sorts of jokes.

N: I'm going to make you defend the use of the word "sophisticated" here - are you sure that you're not just infatuated with smooth accents? [Side: Cara has an obsession with Bond-age {007}] - The editor would like to comment here that bad puns are only slightly tolerated

C: I will admit that anything said by a suave, well dressed male with a British accent will sound a thousand times more intelligent than anything you can say...

N: Sophisticated and sophistry have the same root word - all flash, no substance. Go on.

C: ...but, you must admit, this was a nice changed from the typical frat-house/suburban family/upscale wedding sorts of settings that are usually produced. Our characters find themselves at a funeral, discovering a multitude of ... things ... that they did not know about their family members, typically through disastrous paths.

N: I'll finish the summary - this morbid and mature situational comedy film is a good one to follow our review of Caddyshack in the last issue, since its quality comes from the

opposite end of the spectrum. Where Caddyshack relies on Bill Murray and Rodney Dangerfield's comic prowess and very little upon the script, Death at a Funeral works less with individual comic talent and more on a great script to get laughs. Caddyshack feels like a series of smaller, linked episodic sketches, where Death at a Funeral has one seamless and flowing story-arc. Very smooth.

C: Yeah... I'm struggling to find some way to contradict you, so instead I'll just move on. The rooftop confession was cliché, however that is part of this film's appeal. As ludicrous as it all seems, occurring at a funeral, it all feels vaguely familiar. It appeals to the dysfunctional family member in us all.

N: Cliché? "Cliché"? I'd tend to say it's more of a function of the comic style - positivity and affirmation of values despite the garbage that people do to one another.

C: I stand by the term. I see far too many TV shows and movies that use the form where pregnancy is treated as a get-out-of-jail-free card for any situation. "I hate you" - "I'm pregnant"; "I want to break up" - "I'm pregnant"; "I slept with your sister" - "I'm pregnant".

N: You're pregnant?

C: Idiot. Why did she choose to withhold this information from her fiancé if she apparently loved him so sodding much?

N: Several reasons. Number one - film: dramatized life for our entertainment. If it doesn't happen like that there's nothing interesting to watch.

Number two - Character consistency: how does she deal with her father in pretty much every scene? Number three - Pregnancy revelation in a funeral movie balances out all of the binary oppositional symbolism - birth/death, love/hate, marriage/separation. You know, all that shit.

C: The symbolism wasn't lost on me, but it doesn't make it any less cliché! We're starting to give away the ending...

N: ... of a sub-plot. You say cliché a lot. Is it still a cliché if it's appropriate to the flow of events? You can say that if "B" always happens as a result of "A", it's a cliché, but some things are an organic sequence of events. I bet you look at a pot of water on an element, and yell CLICHÉ in all capital letters when it boils.

C: Don't pull that plubmus denken bullshit on me!

N: Now who is the name (term) dropper? Who are "they" anyways?

C: [Names have been removed to protect the identities of the guilty].

N: What kind of answer is that? You just dictated "Square-bracket-names-have-been-removed....." etc. I think you make this shit up, seriously.

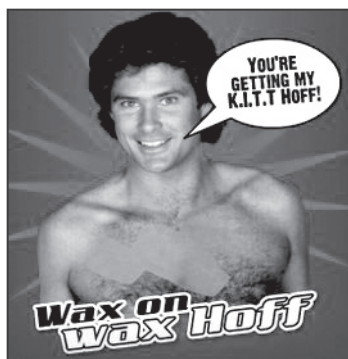
C: <<flower>> you, I just want the last word!

TOP 10 LIST...



Things You Don't Want to Find in Your Bed

10. A Decapitated horse head
9. The Quill Staff
8. Your Parents
7. Larkins
6. A Walrus
5. Used Condoms
4. Crabs
3. Blood
2. An open pudding cup
1. Pee Wee Herman or David Hasselhoff... or both





Sleuth

Fri. Jan. 25 at 7:30 PM
Sat. Jan. 26 at 9:30 PM

Breakfast with Scott

Sat. Jan. 26 at 7:00 PM
Sun. Jan. 27 at 7:00 PM

No Country for Old Men

Fri. Feb. 1 at 7:30 PM
Sat. Feb. 2 at 9:30 PM

My Kid Could Paint That

Sat. Feb. 2 at 7:00 PM
Sun. Feb. 3 at 7:00 PM

Love in the Time of Cholera

Fri. Feb. 8 at 7:30 PM
Sat. Feb. 9 at 9:30 PM

Jimmy Carter: Man from Plains

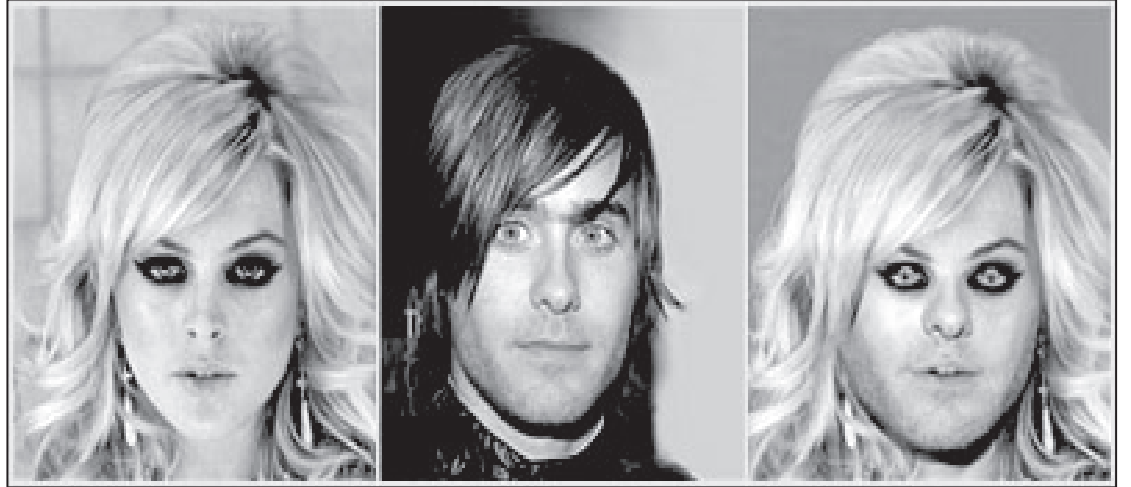
Sat. Feb. 9 at 7:00 PM
Sun. Feb. 10 at 7:30 PM

Films at the Evans are presented by the volunteers of
the **Brandon Film Festival**

in association with Film Circuit.



WHAT IF LINDSAY LOHAN
AND JARED LETO MATED?!



NBC.com Late Night with Conan O'Brien

1 day till Ottawa!!!!!! OMG!
I'll be alot happier once I get
this shirt all done.

"We can print Shit . . .
right?"

90/10.... that's what I said!

If you don't stop crushing
my cords, I will find out
where you live and drive by
your house creepily. That's
right. I will do nothing but
be a minor annoyance.

BUSU president just wrote
me an e-mail. He's so
dreamy!

TLF Three
Lines
Free
.....

I referred to Sir Arthur Conan
Doyle as a shifty guy.

Well...I remember talking to the
guy but I don't remember what
I said.

Even plastic giraffes need a place
to hang thier hats, but watch out
giraffe....it's a liger!

I have 6 unread e-mails.
Holy Crap!!!!

What happened to your eye?
It was a bowling accident
gone terribly wrong... Kids
this is what happens when
you hold in a fart... Be sure
that you stretch before
a rousing game of ping
pong... You know, if I had a
nickel for every time a seagull
got the best of me... In rock,
paper, scissors, elbow always
wins... Don't ask.

~Do you like my hair?
~Well, it 's not red

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BUSU NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS



Nathan Peto
BUSU President

Welcome Back To BU

I hope everyone had a great holiday break and welcome to the new students who are joining us for this term. The next four months of university will be a very busy time for you as students and for BUSU as your representatives. The upcoming months will be full of student activities to conclude our academic year. Remember, there are several ways to ensure that you keep informed on all of these events.

☒ Watch BU NOW on the over 24 monitors throughout the University or on channel #94 on your TV in Residence to learn more about upcoming events.

☒ Check out our Website www.busu.ca for up to date information on your BUSU Council and campus events.

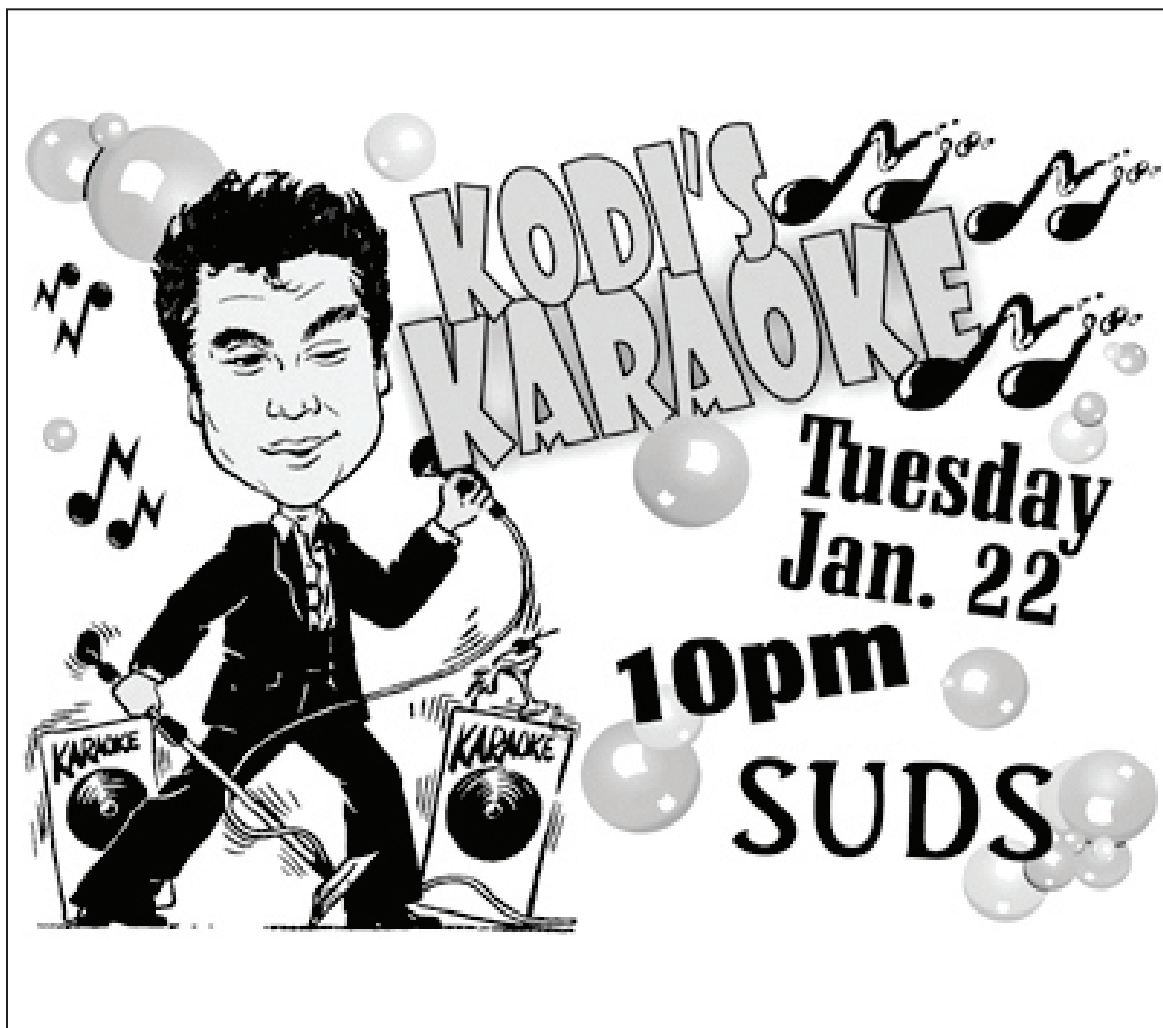
☒ Join the BUSU Presidents Page on Facebook for updates and discussion on Campus Events.

☒ Check out the posters and banners that are put up around campus regarding BUSU and SUDS special events.

☒ Or just come up to the BUSU Office, 2nd Floor KDC building, for a chat.

Back To School Events

Our back to school events calendar is full of events. Check out our advertisement of events that follow this article. While you are attending our events make sure to sign our petition for more provincial funding for laboratory equipment. This petition is being circulated in partnership between the BU administration and BUSU. Faculty and Students are welcome to sign.



NEW NIGHTLY SPECIALS!

Monday

All Molson draft & bottles \$3.00

Tuesday

Free pool, Nintendo Wii & \$10.00 pitchers!

Wednesday

Coffee House -- live open mic & \$3.00 Moosehead specials!

Thursday

All draft \$3.00, plus live jazz from the BU School of Music!

Friday

\$3.00 select domestic bottles & nacho plates!

Ask your server about our \$3.00 nightly cocktail special!



SCOREBOARD

CIS Top Ten Rankings (as of Jan. 15, 2008)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

1. Simon Fraser (15-1) / (1)
2. UBC (14-2) / (2)
3. Memorial (10-0) / (3)
4. McMaster (13-0) / (4)
5. Alberta (11-3) / (5)
6. Calgary (9-5) / (6)
7. York (11-2) / (7)
8. Laval (7-0) / (9)
9. Regina (9-5) / (8)
10. Cape Breton (8-3) / (10)

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

1. Manitoba (11-1) / (1)
2. UBC (11-1) / (2)
3. Calgary (12-2) / (3)
4. Montreal (11-2) / (4)
5. Alberta (9-3) / (5)
6. Trinity Western (8-4) / (6)
7. Sherbrooke (9-4) / (7)
8. McGill (8-5) / (NR)
9. Toronto (11-2) / (10)
10. Ottawa (10-3) / (9)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

1. Carleton (12-0) / (1)
2. Calgary (12-2) / (4)
3. Acadia (9-1) / (3)
4. UBC (12-3) / (2)
5. Brandon (12-2) / (8)
6. Ottawa (10-2) / (7)
7. Concordia (4-3) / (5)
8. Brock (7-4) / (NR)
9. Toronto (9-3) / (NR)
10. Cape Breton (9-2) / (10)

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

1. Alberta (9-1) / (1)
2. Winnipeg (8-2) / (2)
3. UBC (10-2) / (3)
4. McMaster (13-0) / (4)
5. Dalhousie (9-1) / (6)
6. Laval (10-2) / (5)
7. TRU (6-4) / (7)
8. Brandon (4-6) / (8)
9. Queen's (8-4) / (NR)
10. UNB (5-3) / (10)

Next Bobcat Home Action

January 25 @ 6:00PM
Women's Volleyball vs. Saskatchewan
January 25 @ 8:00PM
Men's Volleyball vs. Saskatchewan
January 26 @ 6:00PM
Women's Volleyball vs. Saskatchewan
January 26 @ 8:00PM
Men's Volleyball vs. Saskatchewan

Basketball Teams away @ University of
Manitoba

February 1st & 2nd – All 4 teams away @
University of Regina

Sports Sound-Off!

Feb. 1st and 2nd ALL FOUR teams will
be in Regina. I smell road trip.
- catfan38

Good Job WVB! You girls have been
playing really well lately.
- julie

Finally. A new gym.
- parker

Want to have your voice heard? Write in about anything that may
be on your mind. Professional Sports, University Athletics, to BU
Campus Recreation Intramurals; if it's on your mind, it's worth our
time.

Submit your piece to sports@thequill.ca and check out the next
edition of the Quill! Say what you want, when you want (just
remember, keep it fairly clean kids!).



CIS responds to NCAA decision on International Membership

CIS teams could make the switch to NCAA Division II as early as fall 2008.



~Press Release

OTTAWA (CIS) - Canadian Interuniversity Sport officially responded on Tuesday to the NCAA's decision to allow universities from outside the United States to seek active Division II membership. The 10-year pilot program was approved Monday at the 2008 NCAA Convention.

NCAA Division II paved the way for Canadian institutions to seek active Division II membership when they approved a 10-year pilot program at the 2008 NCAA Convention in Nashville, on January 14. The Canadian measure was hailed as an antidote of sorts for Division II members in the West and Northwest regions (there are currently 83 western members compared with 193 in the east). The program takes effect immediately and Canadian schools may apply for membership as soon as June 1, 2008. Schools that meet the June 1 application deadline could start the process of joining Division II as soon as the 2008-2009 academic year.

The vast and overwhelming

majority of Canadian universities are very proud of their membership in CIS and their involvement in a Canadian league that celebrates academics and athletics. The feedback from Canadian universities suggests that a very small number of universities might pursue the NCAA option. While CIS values all our members and does not want to lose any, the CIS membership has grown in recent years and indications are it will continue to do so. So from a simple number of members perspective, the potential loss of one or two members is offset by the recent expansion.

At the same time, the NCAA membership decision has changed the landscape and given CIS cause to reflect. CIS will be conducting a membership satisfaction survey to identify issues that require attention. We plan to confront the difficult issues and align ourselves for the future. We plan to build on our strengths of being a Canadian league that celebrates and supports academics and athletics, and is proud of its Canadian roots.

Some media reports have

suggested that UBC wants to join the NCAA in order to provide greater financial support to student-athletes. What is the CIS reaction to this?

A common and outdated misconception is that athletic awards and scholarships are only available south of the border. In fact about one in two CIS student-athletes receive financial support to pursue their athletics and academics in Canada. Athletic Financial Awards are a vital component in providing an outstanding educational and athletic experience for our student-athletes and are critical in the decision for our students to pursue their dreams in Canada.

CIS will have discussions with Canadian universities considering joining the NCAA to express that CIS values all its members and would prefer that none migrate south of the border. If a Canadian university chooses to apply and is accepted as a NCAA member there will be a lot of issues to resolve as this rolls out, and we go our separate ways. -CIS-

Bobcat B-Ball Teams Achieve Mixed Results

Taryn Hajnrych
Staff

Both the Men's and Women's Bobcat Basketball teams traveled to British Columbia this past weekend where they squared off against the University of British Columbia T-Birds Friday night, followed by tough competition in the University of Victoria gym Saturday.

The ladies started the weekend off right, leading UBC throughout the first quarter. A lack of energy and a tough T-Bird fast break saw the ladies fall behind in the second quarter, heading into half time down 42-25. The T-Birds came out once again with a very aggressive offense and dominated the Ladycats on the boards, pulling ahead to seal the deal. Top scorers for the Cats were Dayna Prost with 12 and Melanie Thompson with 10. Erica McGuinness led the T-Birds to their 99-46 victory over the Cats with 23 points and 8 rebounds.

Following the Ladycats' defeat was the showdown between

the #2 ranked UBC T-Birds and the #8 ranked Bobcats. The two teams came out of the gates fairly evenly matched in the first two quarters and headed into half with the Birds up by a slight lead. The Cats came out strong in the second half and outscored UBC in both quarters. A few key plays by the likes of Yuri Whyms and Dany Charlery helped to set the pace for the second half as the Bobcats maintained a lead, upsetting the T-Birds in the end by a score of 92-78. Fifth year forward Adam Hartman notched 23 points for the Cats, and teammate Dany Charlery led all scorers for the evening with 27 points, 6 steals and shot an impressive 90% from the foul line. Top scorers for UBC were Brent Malish with 18 and Kyle Watson with 12.

Saturday night was a complete 180 for the Ladycats who came out flat against the Vikes. U of Vic dominated the first half of the game both offensively and defensively. Janet Hatfield and Tiffany Olsen both hit double digits on the boards with 10 and

12 respectively, compared to Amanda Fortin-top rebounder for Brandon-who hauled down just 5. Following half-time the Cats bounced back, but once again it was too little too late and the ladies came up short, with the final decision resting at 66-37. Top scorer for Brandon was team captain Jennalee Burch with 13. Ryan McKay led the Vikings with 21 points.

The same can be said for the Men's performance on Saturday night. A different team seemed to have stepped onto the court, as the men were dealt just their second loss in league play this season. The Cats led the Vikes throughout the first half and went into half time with a marginal lead of only 9 points. Second half action saw Victoria rally and outscore the Bobcats in both quarters, clinching the victory with a score of 65-60. Once again, Dany Charlery led all scorers for the evening with 25 points, assisted by Yul Michel who had 13. Top scorer for the Vikes was Tyler Hass with 23.

Classified

Personals

100% Brandon Callers
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